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fair to call Henry VIII., with all his faults, an "eruption", even if Sir Harry Vane may have been "a pretty fleck of cavalier color on a sombre Puritan canvas—a fresh-blown English rose blooming in a bed of New England immortelles" (p. 278). It should be admitted, however, that these rhetorical embellishments are not so common as in the first volume, nor do the tripping jingles in the text set the mind so oft a-dancing.

In the realm of misunderstanding and misstatement, the chapter on the "evolution of the English colonial system" needs a thorough revision. Not only does it ignore the share of Parliament in the growth of imperial administration, but it makes a large number of assertions which are either erroneous or so vague as to create impressions altogether false. Elsewhere in the volume questionable statements like the following may be found: that under the charters of 1609 and 1612 "Virginia held until the formation of the federal constitution in 1788" (p. 53); that in 1621 the "termination of the continental wars threw the services of gallant thousands upon a glutted market" (p. 73); that King James was laying plans for the marriage of his son to the sister of the Spanish monarch (p. 75), and to the daughter of that ruler (p. 76); that in 1624 Virginia "again" became a royal province (p. 77); that Spain had obtained from the New World no profits other than plunder (p. 80); that the title "king of France" borne by the English king in 1620 was "sixty-two years behind the truth" (p. 117); that the Swedish settlement on the Delaware was "the only colony ever planted by that nation" (p. 229); and that "the idea of local self-government . . . was a leading principle of the primeval polity of the Goths" (p. 343). The word "Antinomian", finally, is often used without a definition of its concrete meaning in Massachusetts history; and the typographical errors on page 273 seem quite inexcusable.

Despite all these shortcomings, the reviewer adheres to the opinion expressed in his critique of the first volume (*AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*, X. 852-856), namely, that Dr. Avery's work promises to be the best popular history of the United States which has yet appeared.

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD.

Die Kolonisation des Mississippitalen bis zum Ausgange der französischen Herrschaft. Eine kolonialhistorische Studie von ALEXANDER FRANZ, Ph.D. (Leipzig: Georg Wigand; New York: G. E. Stechert and Company. 1906. Pp. xxiv, 464.)

As the publication of a new work on the Mississippi valley seems to require some justification, the author states with care the causes that have led him to produce this rather bulky volume. First, he has found no scientific work of a comprehensive character which deals with this particular period in the history of the valley. Among the American authors the lack of a thorough, scientific treatment is marked; among French authors, Villiers du Terrage has, indeed, covered a por-

tion of the period of French occupation, but his book is too largely devoted to defending the memory of Kerlerec. Very naturally, says Dr. Franz, no Frenchman has cared to attempt to describe in detail the failures and losses of French colonization in old Louisiana. If the task is now taken up by a German, it is because the author, though now resident in Europe, was born in the Mississippi valley and spent the early years of his life there. Moreover, Dr. Franz believes that his study of this long past history of early colonization in America will be of interest and profit to the Fatherland, which is now standing at the threshold of its colonial development. French colonization in the Mississippi valley was a failure; but the investigation of the causes of that failure may serve as an object-lesson to Germans, who, starting far behind the other nations as colonizers, have no time to lose in useless experiments. Thus the author hopes that his book will serve not only scientific but also national ends. At a later time he expects to find the opportunity to write the history of the Mississippi valley down to the present time. In this work of the future he purposes to use the archives which, on account of his professional duties, he was unable to consult for the present work.

All historical students will regret that the author was not able to consult the archives of the Louisiana Historical Society or, better, those of Paris; for many times in this work he seems in doubt which of conflicting statements in secondary authorities he should accept, when access to the "sources" would have settled the question. Moreover, he occasionally falls into errors of fact, apparently because he has not the sources before him. Thus he states that the riches of the "sieben Städte von Quivira" were reported by De Vaca (p. 22). De Vaca, however, did not mention these cities. It is not correct to state that when Coronado led his expedition to the north, the Moor Estevanico was in his train (p. 22). The Moor went on the expedition of Fray Marcos. The view that La Salle purposely missed the mouth of the Mississippi and went to Texas (pp. 46, 52) was held by Shea, but he never proved it. La Salle did not call the Mississippi the "St. Louis" (p. 46); he named it "Colbert ou Mississipi". The English Turn is not twenty-eight miles from the sea (p. 61), but twenty-eight leagues. Fort Louis was not moved up the river (p. 85), but down to the present site of Mobile. "Bernard de la Harpe" (p. 132) should be B  nard de la Harpe. The author charges Judge Martin with an error in the census of 1769 (p. 341), but the error occurs only in a wretched reprint of Martin's history, not in the original.

Aside from these slips, the author traces in a clear and interesting way the history of the Mississippi valley from the earliest Spanish discoveries down through the Revolution of 1768. The chapter on the Spanish period, being merely an introduction, might with advantage have been much abridged. In the political history the author goes over ground already trodden by many authors, particularly by Winsor, *The Mississippi Basin*. By American readers, therefore, much of the

book may be read in a cursory manner, and even Germans will doubtless feel like skipping the rather long account of Law's financial machinations in France, the details of which hardly find their proper place in this volume. If the author, however, has occasionally lost his sense of proportion, he is to be praised for recognizing the importance of the European background, and for explaining with commendable clearness the events that influenced history on this side of the Atlantic.

The most satisfactory and valuable portion of Dr. Franz's work is that in which he discusses the economic conditions that prevailed in the Mississippi valley during the period of French colonization, and the causes of the failure of France to make that valley as prosperous as it became under the American flag. This was the special task that the author set before himself, and here he has met with marked success. The reviewer does not know of any other work that presents the facts so forcibly, or analyzes the causes of failure in so scientific a spirit. His keen criticism of the attempts to rehabilitate the reputation of Kerlerec, for example (pp. 278-279), is very refreshing: "Nicht Sieg oder Niederlage bedingen den geschichtlichen Ruhm, wohl aber das kühne Ringen um ein hohes Ziel oder das tapfere Ausharren bei einer dem Untergange geweihten Sache!—Und finden wir solches bei Kerlérec?"

In explaining the causes of failure (pp. 426-427) the author very happily calls Louisiana "eine französische Kleruchie, d. h. eine Gründung der französischen Regierung, zugleich aber auch eine kanadische Apökie, d. h. eine private Schöpfung kanadischer Waldläufer." In fact France wished to increase the number of the royal provinces, to keep out the English, to secure the trade with the Spanish colonies, but she was not fitted to take advantage of the great opportunities that Louisiana presented as an agricultural region. She seized a larger territory than she could utilize: "Mal étreint qui trop embrasse". The whole system of colonization collapsed when it met as a rival the English, who, says Dr. Franz, "colonized not with the sword but with the plow".

Yet the labors of France in Louisiana were not without benefit to the world. Her occupation of the valley, says the author, was a period of preparation. In fact the mission of France, as the reviewer once heard M. Jusserand remark, has been that of "a sower of seed". Too often the harvest has been reaped by other nations, but her sowers were the brilliant pioneers, La Salle, Tonti, Iberville, and Bienville, who will always fill a large place in history.

The book contains a copy of Bellin's map of 1744 and a good bibliography, but no index.

JOHN R. FICKLEN.